



2018 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report





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Message from the Chief

Thank you to the citizens, city commission and other city departments for your support of the Fargo Fire Department in 2018. Together the members of the Fargo Fire Department represent a positive and opportunistic organization focused on making a noticeable difference in the community we serve.

My goal each year is to equip, train and motivate our department to serve our community at its highest potential, function with the best interests of our community at the forefront and display professionalism at all times. Every day the members of the Fargo Fire Department live our core values of Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy (PRIDE). My responsibility as fire chief is to support the members of our department as they serve the needs of our community to the highest degree, doing so in a fiscally responsible manner.

2018 was another successful year for the department and the City of Fargo. There were no reported fire deaths, stations improvements were completed, training goals met, and new apparatus and equipment were purchased to meet current and future needs.

We began the year working with internal and external stakeholders to update our 5 year Strategic Plan. All of the data has been collected and the plan is in the final stage of editing and will be available in February of 2019.

In April, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) visited the Fire Department, Red River Regional Dispatch Center and the Fargo Water Department. ISO, through the Public Protection Classification (PPC®) program, evaluates municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In November, we were informed that Fargo was awarded a Class 1 rating. This rating puts Fargo in a very rare situation. Fargo is now one of only 72 communities that have an accredited fire department and an ISO Class 1 rating.

I hope you enjoy the pages that follow. I believe you will find this report to be very informative and enlightening regarding the activities the Fargo Fire Department manages on a day-to-day basis. While we attempt to capture an entire year's work in a single report, the report cannot be inclusive of all that has occurred. These highlights give a picture of how truly busy the department is day in and day out. We function extremely efficiently thanks to the 123 women and men who dedicate their careers to serving the residents of Fargo every day.

Thank you,
Fire Chief
Steven J. Dirksen

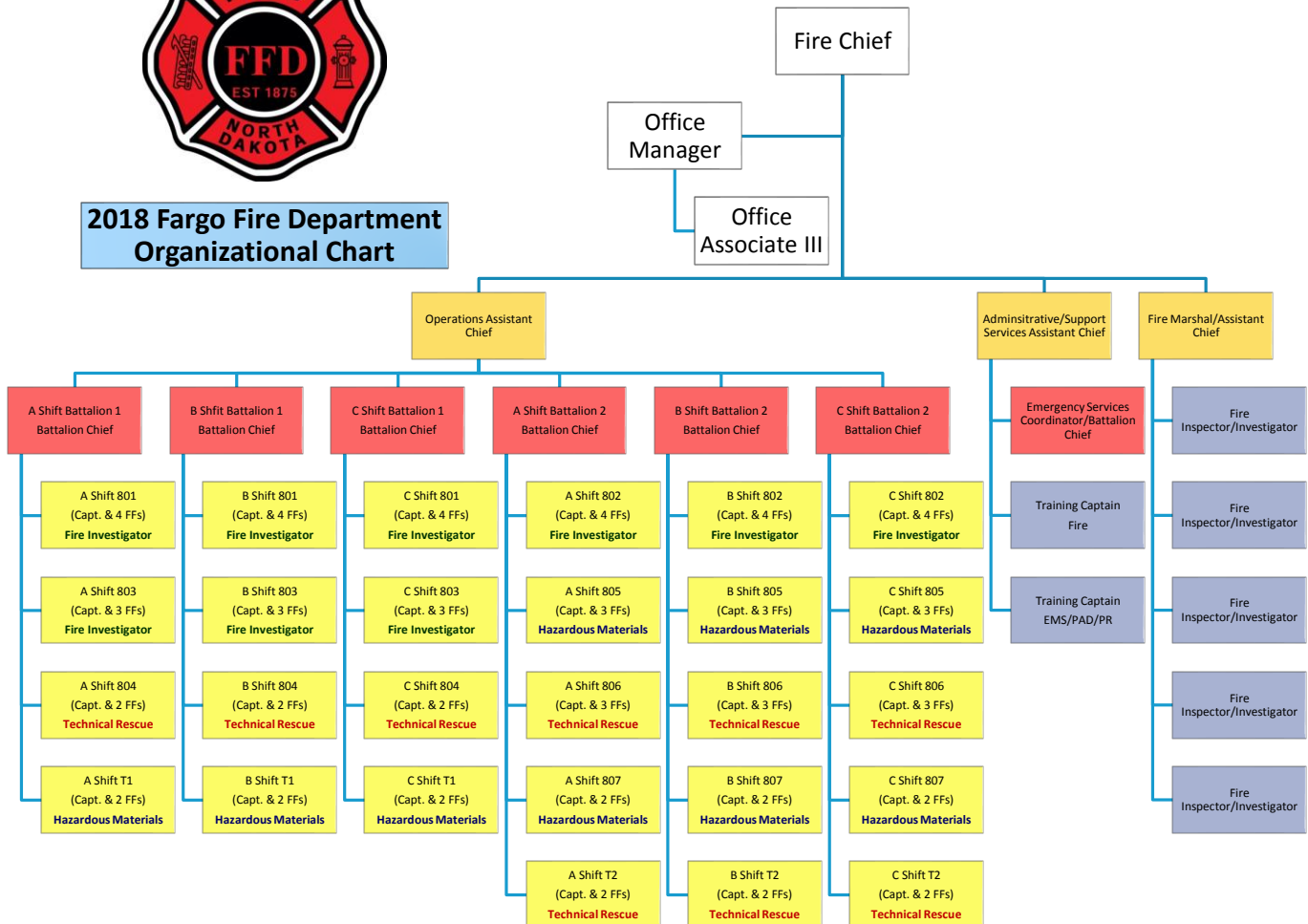




Organizational Chart



2018 Fargo Fire Department Organizational Chart





New Hires



Robbie Goebel



Jacob Cuchna



Dylan Evenson



Matt Kramer



Brent Bachmeier





Promotions



Craig Nelson
Assistant Chief



Joe Mangin
Battalion Chief



Darin Nester
Fire Captain



Benjamin Willey
Fire Captain



Kenton Chromey
Inspector/Investigator





Retirements



Christopher Kankelfritz
31 years of service



Gary Lorenz
28 years of service



William Bush
22 years of service



Doug Nelson
13 years of service



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Inspect 100% of all commercial property, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, and churches.
 - Inspections are conducted to determine compliance with the fire code. The fire prevention bureau along with suppression personnel inspects commercial and residential occupancies. All commercial occupancies and 50% of multifamily occupancies are assigned for inspections. During 2018, transitional duty staff were able to complete the remaining unassigned apartment inspections.

| | Inspections | Inspections Completed | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|------|
| | Assigned | Suppression | Bureau | total | % |
| Apartments (50%) | 754 | 754 | 630 | 1384 | 183% |
| Commercial | 5556 | 4155 | 1417 | 5572 | 100% |

- Provide education to special need organizations, as well as other groups.
 - During 2018, the FFD again targeted public education efforts to neighborhoods where cooking fires had occurred in apartment buildings. Cooking safety pamphlets were distributed to over 1,500 apartment units.
 - In April, the FFD partnered with the Red Cross to participate in “Sound the Alarm, Save a Life” where three trailer courts were canvassed to provide safety information and install free smoke alarms. 81 smoke alarms were installed.
 - In the fall, the FFD partnered with the Michael H. Minger Foundation, NDSU, Campus Firewatch, First Alert and the American Red Cross to canvass the Roosevelt neighborhood and provide fire safety information and smoke alarms. 95 Smoke alarms were installed!



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Complete plan reviews for all proposed construction to ensure compliance with the adopted International Fire Code.
 - In 2018, 218 fire protection system plans were reviewed and 405 acceptance tests were witnessed. The FFD continues to see new projects with 135 construction projects with fire protection systems open and active at the beginning of 2019.
- Present Learn Not to Burn Program in all schools, grades K-2.
 - We continue to reach out to the children in the community through the “Learn Not to Burn” program. This year, over 4,500 children were taught “Exits,” “Get Low and Go,” and general fire safety. The engine and truck companies visit the schools in May to reinforce the safety messages and give the kids a chance to see the equipment up close and personal.
 - Our adult education system provided safety talks, presentations, and fire extinguisher training to over 740 individuals. The audience includes apartment building managers, building safety professionals, and childcare providers. In June, the FFD hosted the “Play Safe Be Safe” workshop that gave childcare providers the opportunity to learn about fire safety and receive materials to teach children in their care.



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Investigate to determine origin and cause of all fires
 - Investigations are conducted to determine origin and cause of a fire. The results of 2018's fire investigations are below. Cooking fires and smoking material fires are the most common cause of structure fires in the City of Fargo.

| Types of Fires (Top three) | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Building fire | 91 |
| Passenger vehicle fire | 36 |
| Dumpster or other outside fire | 16 |

| Classification | Fires |
|----------------|------------|
| Accidental | 149 |
| Incendiary | 11 |
| Natural | 0 |
| Undetermined | 36 |
| Total | 196 |

| Structure Fire Origin (Top three) | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Cooking area, kitchen | 44 |
| Exterior balcony, unenclosed porch | 9 |
| Vehicle Storage area, Garage | 7 |

| Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (top four) | |
|---|----|
| Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment | 42 |
| Smoking Materials | 21 |
| Electrical arcing | 13 |
| Heat from powered equipment | 10 |



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Provide training and direction to the public as requested, to support the Heart Safe Fargo program.
 - As part of the public access defibrillator program within the Fargo Fire Department, CPR classes using high quality mannequins were provided to several groups. These groups consisted of individuals from outside the city and from various city departments.
 - Continue utilizing PulsePoint to enable citizens to be notified and provide assistance (CPR) if a cardiac arrest occurs in a public location.

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of followers of the FFD on PulsePoint..... | 3524 |
| Alerts sent via PulsePoint that CPR was needed in a public location..... | 9 |
| Number of AED locations tracked citywide that can be accessed in the event someone needs CPR | 440 |



Planning Goal 2



Integrate our emergency medical response capability with other service providers to ensure that the needs of the customer are met.

- Meet the response time performance task as indicated in the Standard of Cover document.
 - In 2018, the FFD responded to 6,376 calls coded as EMS.
 - For EMS, the SOC states: “The minimum initial response force for EMS is a single unit response with a minimum of two people, and shall arrive within 5 minutes 30 seconds turnout and travel time 90% of the time when responding emergent.”
 - In 2018, the department had a response time of 6:03 at 90% for EMS calls. This exceeds the goal time, but the department continues to work toward meeting the goal.
 - For EMS calls that are coded “E” which are the most serious calls and often require CPR and AED use, the department had a response time of 5:39 at 90%.
- All suppression personnel are provided training to maintain biannual EMT certification requirements
 - All suppression personnel are required to maintain their certification as an EMT. An individual needs to recertify every two years, so each year, approximately half of the department recertifies to the NREMT standard.
 - Training is provided by a fire captain that works 40 hour weeks and provides consistent training to all fire personnel. This captain also maintains the training records and ensures that each person has sufficient individual training. Training includes hands on experience, distributive education through Target Solutions, and individual study.



Planning Goal 3

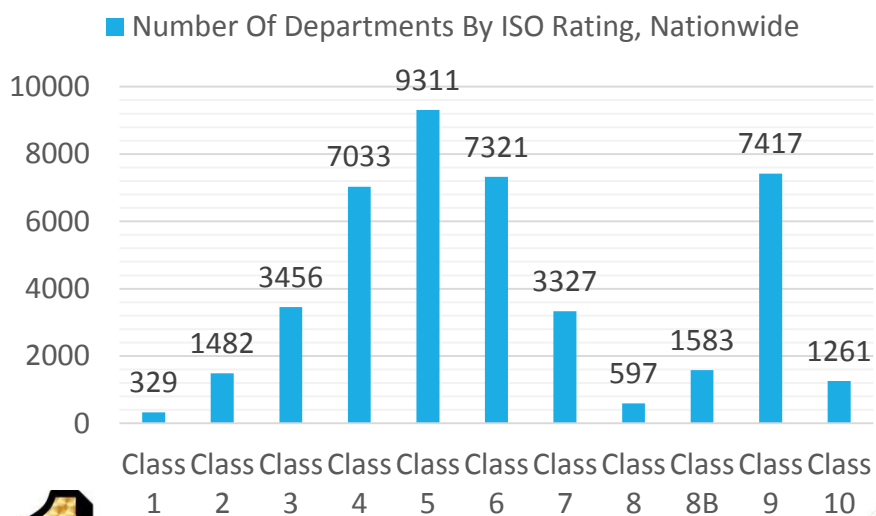


Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

In 2018, the Fargo Fire Department was awarded the Class 1 designation after its most recent Insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluation. The process is a comprehensive review of the fire department itself (50%), the water supply systems (40%), and the emergency communication systems (10%). Fargo improved in all three categories over the 2013 evaluation.

With this new rating, the City of Fargo is in the top ½ percent of all communities nationwide for their fire suppression delivery system. To put this into perspective - of the approximately 48,855 fire departments in the U.S., only 329 have achieved the elite Class 1 designation. The Fargo Fire Department is one of only **72** fire departments nationwide that have achieved an ISO Class 1 designation as well as being Internationally Accredited.

A rating of “1” indicates the highest level of fire protection, while a “10” shows an undeniable need for improvement in all areas of public protection. These ratings are then used by insurance companies to establish fair premiums for commercial and residential insurance.



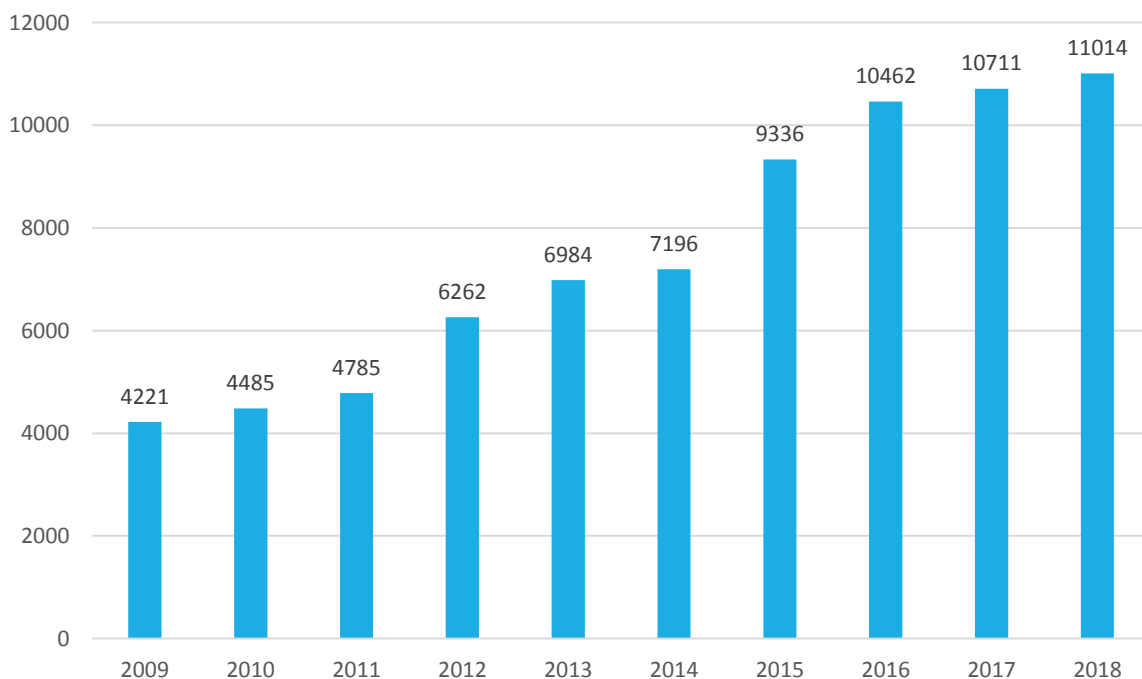
Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

The number of calls for service for the FFD continues to increase. In 2018, the FFD's fire suppression division responded to a total of 11,014 calls for service. This includes mutual aid responses outside of the City of Fargo.

Total Runs Per Year

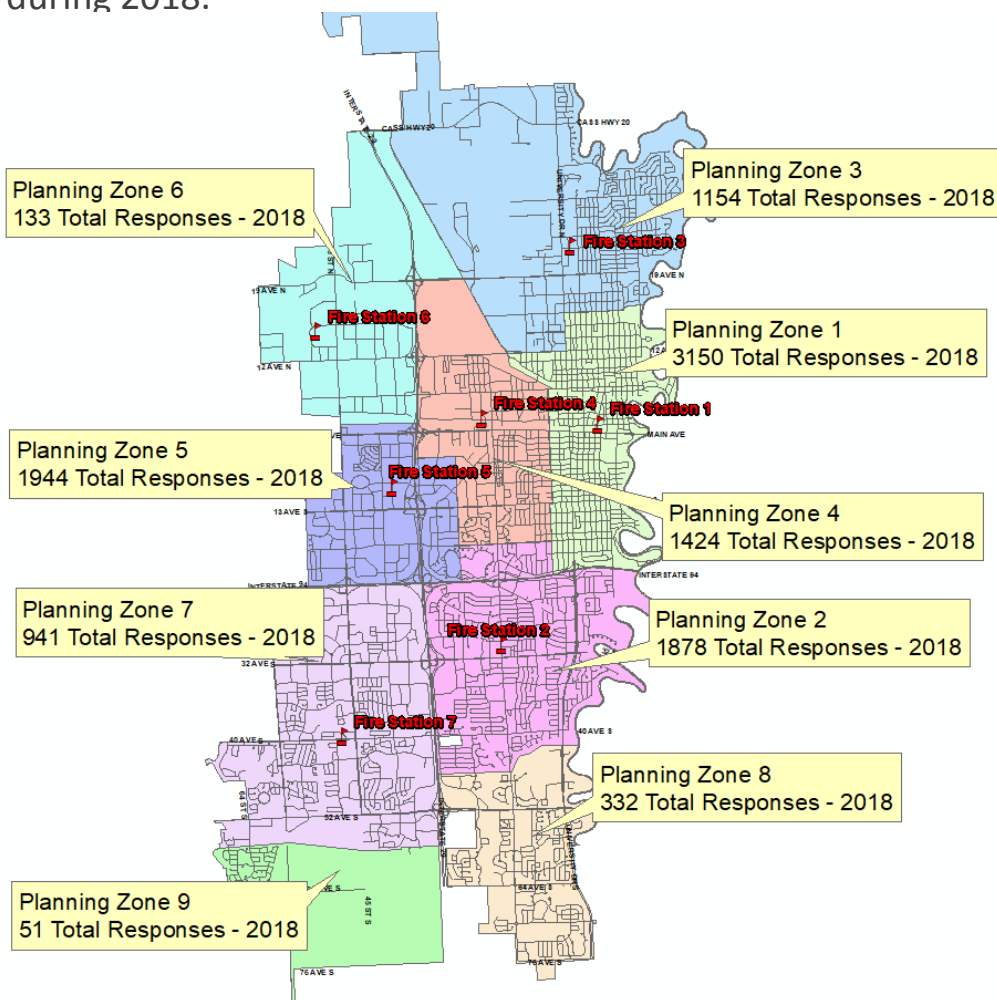


Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

To monitor growth and emergency response within specific regions of the city, the FFD has created planning/response zones. The map below depicts the number of responses that occurred within each of these zones during 2018.



Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

While there were 11,014 total calls that the FFD responded to in 2018, for many of these calls more than one fire apparatus responded. Such as for building fires or vehicle crashes. The table below depicts the total number of emergency responses made by each fire apparatus during 2018.

| 2018 Apparatus Responses | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 801 | 3,284 |
| 802 | 2,768 |
| 803 | 1,503 |
| 804 | 2,295 |
| 805 | 2,505 |
| 806 | 679 |
| 807 | 1,484 |
| Truck 1 | 1,857 |
| Truck 2 | 1,131 |
| Batt 1 | 806 |
| Batt 2 | 638 |



Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

- Respond to fires as rapidly as practical with the intention of controlling fires to the room of origin.
 - For structure fires, the FFD's response objective as outlined in the FFD's Standard of Cover Document states: "Four engines staffed with a minimum of three personnel each, one truck staffed with three personnel, and a battalion chief vehicle staffed with one. Each engine will have a minimum pump capacity of 1250 gpm. First arriving unit shall arrive within 6 minutes 20 seconds total response time 90% of the time."
 - In 2018, the first unit on scene for structure fires arrived on scene 90% of the time in 6 minutes and 27 seconds.
- Provide emergency response to hazardous materials incidents with firefighters trained to the technician level.
 - The FFD has 30 individuals trained to the level of hazardous materials technician. The remaining members of the department are trained to the Awareness and Operations level.
 - Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to hazardous materials training for the members that are on the city and regional hazmat team.
 - Each monthly training session is led by a senior member of the hazmat team and includes hands on, written materials, and individual study through various sources. An annual plan is developed by the battalion chief and fire captain in charge of the program so that consistent training is received by all members of the team.
 - Throughout the year, members of the team provide training to the remainder of the department to ensure their skills remain up to date.
- Maintain a technical rescue team with specialized training in four core competencies.
 - The Fargo Fire Department has 30 individuals trained in four specialty areas of technical rescue. These areas include rope rescue, confined space, structural collapse, and trench rescue.
 - Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to technical rescue team training for the members that are on the city and regional TRT team.
 - Each monthly training session is led by a senior member of the TRT team and includes hands on, written materials, and individual study from various sources. An annual plan is developed by the battalion chief and fire captain in charge of the program so that consistent training is received by all members of the team.
 - All TRT members pursue certification through ProBoard in all specialty areas.



Planning Goal 4



Recruit, develop, and retain the highest quality team members and implement a comprehensive training program that provides for continuous education and career preparation opportunities to all personnel.

- Fire suppression personnel shall receive a minimum of 240 hours of firefighter training.

Each year, every Fargo firefighter completes a minimum of 248 hours of training. This training is designed to prepare firefighters for the many different emergencies to which they respond. Firefighters focus much of this training on skill development and incident management. Training is performed using the department's training facility in conjunction with acquired structures scheduled for demolition. In 2018, Fargo Fire Department members completed 38,200 hours of training. In 2018, the training division gained access to a large acquired structure in the downtown area. Crews were able to conduct numerous training scenarios and practice various forcible entry techniques at the structure.

In 2018, five new firefighters completed the department's 8-week recruit academy. During this academy, firefighters receive training on how to respond to incidents involving: fire, EMS, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials. Once a firefighter leaves the FFD academy, they are assigned to a fire suppression crew. They continue the training process at the crew level for a probationary period of one year.

- Conduct a 40 hour Fire Instructor 1 Training class.

In the fall of 2018, the fire department completed the process of conducting Fire Instructor 1 certification. Members who chose to participate in the program completed a written and practical test to demonstrate their knowledge in the subject. The practical test involved teaching a short class. Twenty six firefighters completed the Instructor 1 certification during two sessions.



Planning Goal 4



Recruit, develop, and retain the highest quality team members and implement a comprehensive training program that provides for continuous education and career preparation opportunities to all personnel.

- Encourage professional growth of officers and firefighters through attendance of educational opportunities.

The Fargo Fire Department encourages the professional growth of its officers and firefighters through local and national training opportunities. In 2018, ten members attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The NFA provides specialized training courses and advanced management programs on site or through local delivery. In 2018 the FFD hosted a National Fire Academy local delivery class. This NFA class was designed to help our current and future officers with initial company operations. In April, three members attended the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis. This conference brings the best instructors from around the country to one location and is the most attended firefighter training event in the country.

- The FFD will promote safety along with the health and wellness of the employees of the Fire Department.

- Provide annual medical examination for all uniformed employees

The FFD provides an annual medical examination for all uniformed employees through the City of Fargo Employee Health office. This physical exam includes blood tests, hearing and vision exams, a lung function exam, EKG, and a physical exam. Last year the department moved to having employees complete the exam off duty during the employee's birth month. Employees are compensated for completing this exam off duty.



Planning Goal 5



Maintain an organization that effectively administers, plans, and manages the physical resources of the department.

- To manage the department's physical resources, numerous daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly checks and evaluation processes are in place. For example, firefighters conduct daily checks on each department emergency response apparatus. Weekly and monthly evaluations are conducted on items such as fire station generators and all tools and equipment located on over 20 emergency response vehicles. Yearly tests are conducted on items such as all ground ladders and fire hose to ensure that these items meet all manufacturer and regulatory standards. In 2018, fire department personnel conducted performance testing on 685 individual pieces of fire hose and 67 ground ladders.

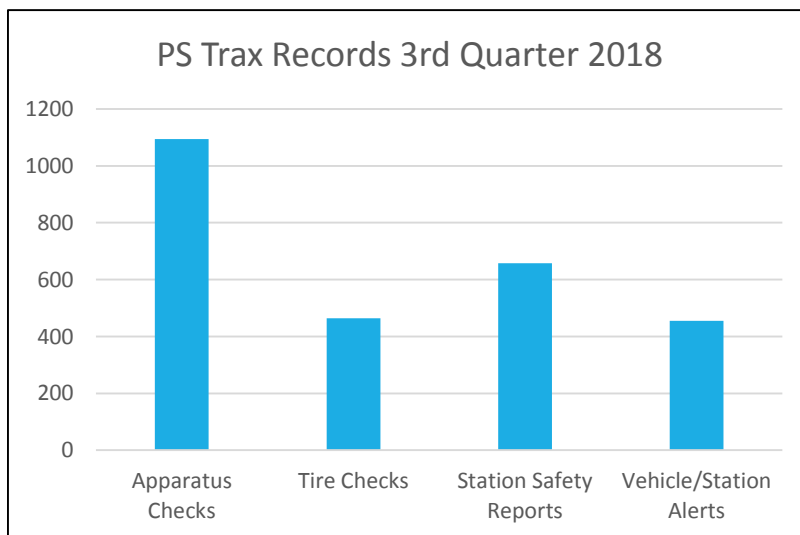


Planning Goal 5



Maintain an organization that effectively administers, plans, and manages the physical resources of the department.

- In September of 2018 the FFD implemented a new system called PSTRax. PSTRax is used to electronically record and track station, equipment, and vehicle inspections.
- Required checks appear automatically whenever they are due. Once completed, the checks are recorded and rolled forward to the next scheduled date.
- PSTRax operates in real-time. Multiple users can be logged in at once, and as checks are completed, they're synced automatically across all accounts. This eliminates redundancies and ensures that the information is always up-to-date.



Planning Goal 6



The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

Monitor legislation that could affect the Fargo Fire Department, the City of Fargo and the fire service in North Dakota.

- The North Dakota Legislative Assembly convenes in regular session during 2019. The Fargo Fire Department monitors legislation and when necessary provides comments regarding impact to the FFD and the citizens of Fargo. Near the end of 2018 the process for monitoring legislation is established and will continue through the 2019 session.
- The 2018 model codes were released by the International Code Council in the fall of 2017. FFD along with the Inspections department began public hearings for the adoption of the ICC codes in September of 2018. The 2018 International Fire Code is expected to be adopted by the City of Fargo in the middle of 2019.



Planning Goal 6



The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

- The FFD will work to improve public confidence in the fire department through public relations.
 - The FFD continues to promote fire safety through community events, social media, station tours, public education, the Learn Not to Burn program, delivering educational materials to targeted care organizations, participating in community events, and partnering with other organizations where possible.

Engine and Truck Company Public Relation Events

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Parades | 4 |
| Truck Show N Tell | 51 |
| Station Tours | 117 |





Planning Goal 6

The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

- In an effort to stay current with new technology, the Fargo Fire Department secured a “drone” to assist in multiple areas. The department started the Red River Valley Unmanned Aircraft Systems group. Participants in the team include: Fargo Fire, Fargo Police, Cass County Sheriffs Office, West Fargo Fire and West Fargo Police. The Fargo Fire Department has 6 FAA certified pilots.





Fargo Firefighters IAFF Local 642

In 2018, Local 642 members donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community.

During the MDA Fill the Boot Campaign, members of Local 642 raised \$24,488. The MDA uses the money to send children diagnosed with muscular dystrophy to a weeklong summer camp free of charge. Every year members of Local 642 deliver gifts to children in area hospital that are unable to be home with their families on Christmas day. "Fire up the Kettles" raised \$27,026.70 for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign. Local 642 members supported Christmas Gift by flipping burgers and participating in the annual fashion show.

